

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 21, 2005. Claims 1 to 6 and 9 to 25 and 28 to 43 remain pending in the application, Claims 7, 8, 26 and 27 having been canceled herein. Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6 to 10, 20, 21, 25 to 29, 41 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by screen dumps for Microsoft Outlook, and Claims 3 to 5, 11 to 19, 22 to 24, 30 to 40 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Outlook in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,936,614 (An). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

Initially, Applicant traverses the rejections based on the screen dumps themselves not constituting prior art to the subject application. Specifically, the Office Action has applied the screen dumps themselves as prior art against the subject application, but it is readily apparent that the Outlook screen dumps were produced only recently (i.e., sometime between April 7, 2005 and July 21, 2005) and therefore, the screen dumps themselves do not constitute prior art to the subject application since the date of the dumps post-dates the subject application's filing date.

However, it appears as though the Examiner may have intended to utilize the screen dumps as evidence to support a conclusion that the Outlook software contained the functionality depicted in the screen dumps prior to the filing date of the subject application. In other words, the Examiner may have intended to base the rejections on the Outlook software functionality (rather than the screen dumps) constituting prior art under §

102(b) as having been in public use or on sale in this country more than one year prior to the U.S. filing date of the application. Since the Office Action fails to explicitly state that this as the basis for the rejections, the grounds for the rejections are unclear and Applicant requests clarification of the grounds for rejection.

Applicant also notes that the Examiner has pointed to a copyright notice on the Outlook screen dumps dating from 1995 to 1999 in an apparent attempt to establish an effective date for Outlook as a reference. However, Applicant believes the copyright notice itself is insufficient to establish a date prior to the U.S. filing date of the subject application for all that is depicted in the screen dumps for at least the following reasons.

First, a copyright notice dating from 1995 to 1999 merely means that the owner is claiming rights to some portion of the software for the earlier dates. That is, without further proof, the screen dumps do not establish that all of the functionality depicted therein existed in the 1995 version for which a copyright is being claimed. That functionality may have only been added in a later version (e.g., the version for which the 1999 copyright is being claimed). Thus, the notice itself is insufficient to establish that all of the functionality depicted in the screen dumps existed more than one year prior to the U.S. filing date of the subject application.

Second, even if a 1999 effective date for all of the functionality depicted in the screen dumps could be established, this in and of itself fails to establish a date prior to the October 21, 1999 filing date of the application. That is, the effective date of the functionality of the software based on the 1999 copyright notice could have been on or after October 22, 1999.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant traverses the rejections and requests that the Examiner provide more definitive evidence that the functionality depicted in the screen

dumps actually existed prior to the U.S. filing date, and that he provide evidence of a precise date for the Outlook functionality in order for Applicant to determine whether or not the filing of a sworn translation of the priority document could overcome that date.

Assuming arguendo, however, that the screen dumps could be found to be prior art to the subject application, the present invention is nonetheless patentably distinct from the screen dumps. In this regard, according to the present invention, an input screen is displayed for inputting a character string and a cursor is displayed on the screen at a position at which a character string is to be inserted. Then, based on a user instruction to display a list, a list that includes a plurality of registered character strings is displayed. When the user selects a desired one of the plurality of registered characters strings from the list, the selected character string is automatically inserted at the position pointed by the cursor and is added to image information which is to be sent to a destination.

With specific reference to the claims, Claim 1 is a character processing method, comprising the steps of a first displaying step of displaying an input screen for inputting a character string on a display, wherein a cursor is displayed on the input screen at a position at which the character string is to be inserted, a second displaying step of displaying a list including a plurality of registered character strings on the display when a user enters an instruction to display the list, selecting, based on a user instruction, a user desired character string from the plurality of character strings included in the list displayed in the second displaying step, and automatically inserting the selected user desired character string at the position of the cursor displayed in the first displaying step when the user desired character string is selected in the selecting step, wherein the inserted character string is added to image information which is to be sent to a destination.

Claims 20, 41 and 43 are apparatus, computer medium and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of displaying an input screen for inputting a character string on a display, wherein a cursor is displayed on the input screen at a position at which the character string is to be inserted, and automatically inserting a selected user desired character string at the position of the cursor displayed in the displaying step when the user desired character string is selected in the selecting step.

The Outlook screen dumps merely depict a process for inserting an email addressee in a "To" bar of a window for sending a new email message. In Fig. 2, an address book is displayed after the user selects any one a "To" or "Cc" button in the email message window. Once the address book is displayed, the user can select an addressee by clicking on one of the names shown on the lefthand side (also shown in Fig. 2). In order to have the selected name displayed in the "To" or "Cc" box on the right hand side of the address box window, after selecting the addressee, the user must then click on either the "To" or "Cc" button on the address book window, which results in the addressee being displayed in the box as shown in Fig. 3. The user must then click on the "OK" button on the address book window in order to have the addressee entered into the "To" or "Cc" bar of the email message window as shown in Fig. 5. As for Fig. 4 of the screen dumps, it merely depicts a cursor being inserted into the "To" bar of the email message window, but the process of having a character string (i.e., an email address) entered into the bar is as described above. That is, the user's selection of the addressee in the address book window must be performed and such a process does not result in the addressee automatically being

entered into the "To" bar. By clicking in the "To" bar of Fig. 4 to have the cursor displayed therein, the user must then either manually type in the address of the addressee, or can perform a cut and paste operation to have the addressee entered in the bar. However, nowhere does the screen dumps provide for automatically inserting the addressee when a user selects the addressee from a list. Thus, the present invention is clearly not anticipated by the screen dumps.

An is not seen to add anything to overcome the foregoing deficiencies of the screen dumps. In this regard, An is merely seen to disclose a touch screen keyboard being displayed on a display. However, An is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with the screen dumps, would have resulted in the feature of displaying an input screen for inputting a character string on a display, wherein a cursor is displayed on the input screen at a position at which the character string is to be inserted, and automatically inserting a selected user desired character string at the position of the cursor displayed in the displaying step when the user desired character string is selected in the selecting step.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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